Sale of imported cars by S.T.C.

839. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number alongwith the value of imported cars sold by S.T.C. through tenders and otherwise during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) what is the procedure of sale of these cars other than through tenders;

(c) what was the profit of S.T.C. from sale of these cars during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise their policy of sale of imported cars through STC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI):

(a)

Year	No. of cars sold	Sale Value (Rs. Crores)
1985-86	636	10.67
1986-87	760	13.36
1987-88	559	14.71

(b) Cars are also sold to VVIPs such as President, Governrnors, Speaker of Lok Sabha etc. and under Tourist Promotion Quota.

(b)

Year	Trading Profit (Rs. crores)
1985-86	4.12
1986-87	5.30
1987-88	6.13

(d) The policy on the release of imported cars through STC is constantly under review.

Reduction on subsidies of Food and Fertilisers

840. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assured the IMF Managing Director that they are reconsidering certain proposals for reducing subsidies on food and fetilisers in order to cut expenditure;

(b) whether the issue will be examined by the high power committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary; and

(c) whether Government consider that the subsidies do not reach the targeted groups and whether Government have conducted a survey to evaluate the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Disappearance of bags containing small coins from Tirupati branch of a nationalised bank

841. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 200 bags of small coins worth Rs. 75000/- were found missing in the branch of a nationalised bank in Tirupati recently; and

(b) whether any inquiry was conducted into the matter and if so, what is the outcome thereof stating as to whether any responsibility for the security lapses has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected, and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Liberalisation of Gold policy

842. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between the international price of gold and that prevailing in India has widened during 1987 and whether the same is responsible for increase in gold smuggling;

(b) whether in view thereof Government are considering liberalisation of their gold policy and if so, whether the Gold Control Act would be suitably amended;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recommended that Indians returning home after residing abroad for more than a year may be allowed to bring gold jewellery in increased value and quantity; and

(d) whether Government are considering to freely allow gold to be imported for the manufacture of jewellery for export and if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The gap between the international price of gold and that prevailing in India varied between 44.15 per cent in January 1987 to 66.22 per cent in December, 1987. The magnitude of smuggling of gold into the country is determined largely by demand pattern, negligible indigenous production and profitability due to differential between international price and rising domestic price.

(b) The two working groups set up by Government to examine the Gold Control Act and the policy of gold have *inter-alia* recommended suitable modifications in the Gold Control Act and the review of existing limits of gold jewellery permitted to be imported, face of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 and Baggage Rules, 1978.

(c) There is no such proposal from the Reserve Bank of India.

(d) Suitable changes in the Replenishment Schemes, Gold Control Act, 1968 and 100 per cent Export Oriented Complexes Schemes etc. have been made which are likely to result in better accessibility of imported gold and should facilitate gold jewellery exports.

Arms supply to terrorists by Pakistan

843. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed any change in the process of arms supply to terrorists in Punjab by Pakistan since the demise of former President, General Zia-ul-Haq; and

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue with the new Government in Pakistan to effectively prevent supply of arms to terrorists in and around Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Chakma refugees in India

844. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Chakma and other tribals from Bangladesh